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P. 30. Is.

Bowers
FROM
THE GARDEN
OF THE EAST



Price Two Cents

WOMAN'S
FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PUBLICATION OFFICE
BOSTON, MASS.

FROM "THE GARDEN OF THE EAST"

BY MRS. H. C. BOWER

MY home is on the little island of Java, the most densely populated place in the whole world. We could support a population of forty-five millions, though we only have a population of thirty-six millions. I can hear you say, "The island surely is not very small if you have that many people," but I tell you it is only a little larger than the State of Pennsylvania or the State of New York. Travelers say it is one of the most beautiful places in the world and one writer has called it "The Garden of the East." If you could see the beautiful terraced rice fields with their watery surfaces looking like great mirrors, the great tree ferns in the valleys and the extensive plantations of tea, sugar cane and tobacco on the hills and plains, you would also say, "What a beautiful place!"

Adding to the picturesqueness of the island are the brown people, many of them dressed in gay colors, working in the fields or walking along the road carrying baskets of vegetables or bunches of rice on their heads. Others are riding on the carabao or in one of their queer little carts, sitting with their backs to the horse and driver.

Are these people anything to you? Let us see.

Doubtless the soap you used this morning was made from cocoanut oil

from Java. Java probably furnished the rattan for the cane bottomed chair you sat on at breakfast. You put Java sugar in your Java coffee, or your Java tea or your Java cocoa. Your coffee cake was seasoned with Java spices and your peanut butter made from Java peanuts. Your laundry woman uses Java bluing. You wear a Java hat in your garden. The tapioca pudding you will have for dinner tonight will probably be made from Java tapioca and seasoned with Java nutmeg. Your dentist uses Java cocaine and your doctor gives you Java quinine for your fever and Java capsicum for your indigestion.

Do you think our little island of Java, as well as our people, important when you consider that most of our time is spent in helping to make your life pleasant?

In return for what we are doing for you, can you deny us the teachers, preachers and doctors needed to tell us of the Christ you love and serve that we may come out of the bondage of fear and superstition which has held us for so many centuries? We have tried Animism, or spirit worship, Mohammedanism, Hinduism and Buddho-Confucianism, but none of these have satisfied. However, the Christianity some of us know has brought to us what our souls have craved all these centuries and we beg of you to send more missionary teachers and doctors to our island.

We are not one people, but Javanese, Malays and many thousands of Chinese, who have come to our beautiful island to

make their home. There are thirty-five millions of our people who have never heard of the Christ and his saving and keeping power, and your own Methodist church is responsible to God for our salvation.

There is but one small mission hospital at the east end of our island, but it is five hundred miles from our home in the west end of the island. There is one small Bible training school for women, also one for men, forty miles from the hospital.

There are only four centers where evangelistic work is being carried on among our thirty-six million people and that by missionaries who spend most of their time teaching English in the Chinese schools to earn their salary, as the Missionary Board had no money to send workers to us. They are tireless in their endeavor to help us, so some thousand — yes, one thousand only — have heard and accepted the soul-satisfying religion they teach.

Our people must be brought out of their degraded lives of fear and superstition, and you only can help, as the government will allow no other church to come to our beautiful island. We are anxiously awaiting your help, and a wonderful opportunity is before you!